

**Amendments to the Specification**

At page 1, please insert the following new paragraph below the title:

**CROSS-REFERENCE TO RELATED APPLICATIONS**

This application is the U.S. national phase of the PCT/FR2003/002000 filed June 27, 2003, which claims the benefit of French Application No. 02 08474 filed July 5, 2002, the entire content of which is incorporated herein by reference.

At page 1, before line 5, insert the following heading:

**BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION**

At page 6, between lines 4 and 5, insert the following heading:

**SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION**

At page 14, before line 25, insert the following heading:

**BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS**

Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 14, line 25 with the following amended paragraph:

~~The invention will be better understood from the illustrative examples described below with reference to the appended drawings in which:~~

- figure 1 shows steps of the method according to the invention for identifying a first entity;
- figure 2 shows steps of the method according to the invention for signing a message;
- figure 3 shows steps of the method according to the invention for authenticating a message;
- figure 4 shows a first variant of the authentication method for facilitating many transactions; ~~and~~
- figure 5 shows a second variant of the authentication method involving an intermediate entity; and
- figure 6 shows an embodiment of a system on which the methods described herein may be implemented.

In re Appln. of Girault et al.  
Application No. Unassigned  
(U.S. National Phase of PCT/FR2003/002000)

At page 14, between lines 38 and 39, insert the following heading:  
**DESCRIPTION OF PREFERRED EMBODIMENTS**